

# A BIGGER SLICE OF CIVILIZATION FOR THE FILIPINOS!

National Committee Organized to Help in Work of Uplifting Uncle Sam's Wards---Mrs. William Howard Taft and Other Notable Men and Women in the Movement.



A larger slice of civilization is being prepared for the Filipinos. The little brown men of the Orient are to be prepared more fully for either self-government or to become good American citizens, than has been the case in the past. Although in the fifteen years of American occupation they have made surprising strides forward. And much of this furtherance of the work of civilization is to be done by a new organization known as the National Committee for the Uplifting of the Wards of the Nation.

This organization, which proposes to uplift our brown-skinned wards in the Philippines, is composed of the friends of Right Rev. Charles H. Brent, Episcopal Bishop of the Islands, who, November 8, returned to continue his work among the Moro tribes.

And there are distinguished names among those composing the initial members of the Executive Board of the organization. No less a person than Mrs. William Howard Taft, wife of the former President of the United States, is one and Admiral George Dewey, the hero of Manila Bay, and president of the General Board of the United States Navy, is another.

Others on the committee are: Francis E. Clark, D. D., president United Society of Christian Endeavor; Mrs. Adam Denmead, national president, Daughters of the King; Mrs. Henry M. Flagler, Ralph M. Grant, commander-in-chief, Sons of Veterans, United States; Major Henry L. Higginson, of Boston; Congressman Richmond Pearson Hobson; Mrs. Donald McLean, former national president, Daughters of American Revolution; William R. Moody, president, Northfield Schools; John R. Mott, chairman, International Y. M. C. A. Committee; George Wharton Pepper, Mrs. George Shreve; Mrs. William G. Elade, president, United States Daughters of 1812; Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Phelps Stokes; Joseph Strong, D. D., president, American League of Social Service; Mrs. Mary Logan Tucker; Major General Leonard Wood, Chief of Staff, United States Army; Rear Admiral Charles H. Stockton, Commander of the Order of Washington; Miss Mabel T. Boardman, chairman, American Red Cross; Eliza B. Masters; Mrs. Lorillard Spencer; Mrs. L. L. Funk, national president, Children's Day Association; Mrs. P. V. Pennypacker, national president, General Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. W. Enlen Roosevelt; General Marcus H. Wright, vice commander of the Order of Washington.

Kenneth B. Day is secretary of the committee, with headquarters at 20 Church street, New York City. The committee wishes to raise funds to carry on the work planned by Bishop Brent among the Moro tribes, who are among the most uncivilized of the many tribes in the Islands. It is working under the auspices of the Harmony Club of America, which has a membership of several thousand men and women in the United States, who are interested in uplift work.

It is hoped by the committee to provide a guarantee fund of \$100,000 a year to maintain and extend



this work and two large subscriptions recently received have given much encouragement. They were from Mrs. Russell Sage and Mrs. Willard Straight, each of whom gave \$5,000. Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish and Mrs. Donald McLean also have pledged themselves to make this work a special undertaking with them. Mrs. McLean is moved by sentimental reasons. Her daughter, the wife of an army officer, died in the Philippines and she will give her time to this work as a memorial to her child.

Bishop Brent is a great believer in the possibilities among these queer little brown people of the Philippines (the Moros), who subsist on camotes and corn, wear no garments and make their homes in tree tops. He has been among them since 1891, and already has accomplished great good. For instance in one section families who were dwelling in tree tops two years ago now have comfortable homes in decent villages, and are cutting their grass with American lawn mowers. The telephone, telegraph, sewing machine, automobile, railroad, artesian well, farming tools, and other modern inventions are increasingly welcomed and used by the natives, who are not devoid of intellectual capacity and have considerable manual dexterity. The mats and bead work of the women, the brasses and wood work of the men, display artistic ability and have real in-

trinsic value—even in their crude state. Bishop Brent's plans take in the social, industrial, educational and evangelical work among the million or more pagan and Moro inhabitants. He hopes to cure them of their chronic ills, such as malaria, hookworm, black fever, and the like, and teach them how to live so as to avoid the tropical diseases—most of which are due not to climate but to unhygienic habits.

He plans to help them to found real homes and maintain civilized communities until their savagery is fully outgrown. The industrial work planned by Bishop Brent is one of the chief features. He will work to the end of making the Moros become self-supporting and masters of several trades and occupations. He will teach them how to reclaim thousands of acres of productive land; how to build and care for sanitary dwellings; and, in short, through the trade school bring them out of their present bondage of poverty and degradation. In his educational work Bishop Brent will teach the boys and girls the duties of citizenship, and give them such ethical and moral guidance as will prevent the cruelty and immorality so prevalent among their elders. At the present time only a thousand pagan and Moro children out of an estimated total of 200,000,000 are receiving school advantages. For



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more than ten years Bishop Brent has toiled, prayed, written and planned to bring about the education and civilization of these Moro savages. He has been aided by the gifts of money sent from churches and philanthropists in America, by the earnest efforts of civilian, military and naval Americans in the Philippines, and by the loyal devotion of native helpers. Hospitals, homes, industrial schools, a cathedral, and other institutions of civilization have been established, chiefly in the Island of Luzon. In connection with the advancement of the Filipinos in civilization



MISS MABEL T. BOARDMAN at upper left. Admiral Dewey at upper right. Center row, left to right: Moros with datto in center. Mrs. William Howard Taft, and Filipino policeman with prisoners. Below is Congressman Richmond P. Hobson.

the opposition to the government's plan to grant them independence in eight years is pertinent. A recent conference of the foremost Americans, who have served in the Islands, at Lake Mohonk opposed this plan. It was the consensus of opinion that the natives are not ready for self-government. The names of them, it is said, are still very ignorant, and if abandoned by the United States would be at the mercy of a few professional politicians known as "politicos." These "politicos" are said to be the ones crying loudest for independence. The United States should not grant complete independence to the Philippines for at least twenty-five years, Judge Arthur P. Odlin of Florida, for six years Judge of the Court of First Instance at Manila, told the Lake Mohonk conference. "I have a firm confidence in the future upliftment of the Filipinos always, provided that the United States Government will not abandon them to the small group of 'politicos' doing all the shouting for independence." Judge Odlin deprecated the government idea in its Philippine policy of creating a native majority on the commission. He said it was a

dangerous and ill advised experiment and would work injuriously against the natives themselves. He thought no further measure of self-government should be granted until at least 50 or 60 per cent of the rising generation can be taught the A B C's of self-government and then leave it for them to decide whether or not they want independence, and not have it thrust upon them by a few thousand self-seeking "politicos." "There have been six Governor Generals in twelve years," said he, "which has greatly impeded progress in the Philippines. About the time an American official over there becomes an expert, he is usually removed." "That slavery in its worst form exists on the Islands has been declared in special reports by Dean Worcester and the Auditor of the Philippines, and their statements confirmed by men who have spent years among and studying the Filipinos. With this as a basis for opposition Senator Borah of Idaho has been leading a fight against the confirmation of the four new Philippine commissioners, recently appointed by President Wilson.

tion that the commissioners should not be confirmed unless the Senate receives pledges that they will prosecute slavery in the islands.

The position taken by the War Department when these reports were made public is that there is already sufficient law to stamp out the iniquity and that the duty fell in the first instance on the Attorney General of the Islands.

It was pointed out by Gen. Frank McIntyre, chief of the Insular Bureau, that wherever definite reports had been made to the law officials in the Philippines indictments and convictions followed. The White House has not taken up the challenge, so that if the names of the commissioners are forced to the front there will be a square fight which will develop the strength of Senator Borah and his friends, as against a straight party vote in the Senate.

The commissioners appointed by the President are Victorino Mapa, Secretary of Finance and Justice; Jaime C. de Veyra, Vicente Illustre, and Vicente Singson. The Senate Committee on the Pacific Islands and Porto Rico has already agreed to report favorably these appointments.

While he also declares that slavery exists in the Philippines today, Ident. Edward O'Flaherty, adventurous soldier, traveler and Filipinoologist, says that both the Christian and pagan Filipinos are making real progress toward Western civilization.

O'Flaherty has studied the situation in the Philippines so carefully that he has been called the first Filipinoologist. He talks interestingly of the savagery still existent on the islands and the progress being made by civilization. The natives are learning to work, he says, and to consider toil not degrading. They also are learning to talk English.

He praises Manila highly as to location and civic and commercial spirit and predicts it will be the largest city in the Orient before another generation has passed away.

## ALL FILIPINO LIFE HAS BEEN BENEFITED.

"There is no department of Filipino life," he said, "that has not been immensely benefited by our presence. Never in history has any nation treated backward peoples who have come under its sway as we have treated the tribes of the Philippine Islands."

"No matter on which side you may be on the question of what American occupation means for the Philippines, when you reach the great breakwater off Manila, and then get beyond it, your first glimpse of the new American Filipino city, a seaport without a superior in the Far East, your sensation must be wonder, and then pride."

"Lots of Americans have visited the Philippines, and many have written books about Manila and the islands. I suppose there are 7,000 Americans scattered among the 2,000 islands, and there is room for many native and intelligent foreigners in that picturesque land of the bamboo and the water buffalo."

The electric plant of a single New York building supplies more than 12,000 outlets, most of them for